

Message Text

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17
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-07 AID-05 ABF-01 L-03 IGA-02

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P 091010Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6132

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CE
SUBJECT: REPORTED VISIT OF FOOD COMMISSIONER AND QUESTION OF
PL 480 FREIGHT TENDERING

FOR NEA/INS,PASS USDA FOR PL 480 TITLE I COORDINATOR NORTON

REF: (A) STATE 274901, (B) STATE 268445, (C) STATE 244840

1. REFTEL B SUGGESTION THAT GSL SEND PURCHASING DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TO TENDER FOR PL 480 RICE, FREIGHT, AND WHEAT FLOUR, WAS FORWARDED BY NOVEMBER 2 LETTER TO EXTERNAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR VELAYUTHAM WITH COPY TO FOOD COMMISSIONER SENANAYAKE. AT PARTY EVENING OF NOVEMBER 5, EMBOFF ASKED SENANAYAKE IF DELEGATION TO BE SENT AND WHO MIGHT BE ON IT. HE REPLIED THAT ONE-MAN DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY BE SENT, AND HE MIGHT BE THE ONE, BUT NO FINAL DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. IN NOVEMBER 9 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, SENANAYAKE SAID DECISION STILL NOT TAKEN ON WHO WOULD BE GOING TO WASHINGTON BUT IT NOW SEEMED LESS LIKELY TO BE HIM. HE PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF NAME OF PERSON GOING AND DATE OF VISIT WHEN DEFINITELY KNOWN.

2. SENANAYAKE SAID WHOEVER GOES TO WASHINGTON WILL CALL FOR RICE SAMPLES AND TEST THEM BEFORE AWARDING BIDS. INITIAL PURCHASE OF 10,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE,
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HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER FIXING VESSEL

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLOUR SHIPMENTS. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN ABOUT FOUR WEEKS. WITH REGARD TO TENDERING FOR FLOUR, SENANAYAKE SAID DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO CONTINUE TENDERING FROM COLOMBO. OFFICIALS IN COLOMBO NOT WILLING TO DELEGATE THAT MUCH AUTHORITY.

3. IN TALKING WITH SENANAYAKE, IT OBVIOUS GSL THINKS REQUIREMENT THAT FREIGHT TENDERS BE CONDUCTED IN US APPLIES ONLY TO RICE SHIPMENTS. IN FY 1977 PL 480 TITLE I NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS (REFTEL C) FREIGHT TENDERING REQUIREMENT IN SAME PARAGRAPH (7.B) WITH REQUIREMENT THAT RICE BE TENDERED IN US. THIS CONJUNCTION REFLECTED IN AGREED MINUTES OF NEGOTIATION (TRANSMITTED UNDER COVER OF COLOMBO A-90). AS THIS QUESTION NEVER RAISED DURING NEGOTIATIONS, EMBASSY NOT SURE WHETHER REQUIREMENT FOR FREIGHT TENDERING IN US APPLICABLE ONLY TO RICE OR TO BOTH COMMODITIES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF FREIGHT TENDERING REQUIREMENT.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CARGO HANDLING, PL 480 TITLE 1, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB04155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760417-0071
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761168/aaaacgpn.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 274901, 76 STATE 268445, 76 STATE 244840
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED VISIT OF FOOD COMMISSIONER AND QUESTION OF PL 480 FREIGHT TENDERING FOR NEA/INS,PASS USDA FOR PL 480 TITLE I COORDINAT
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006